

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 EUR-08

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3116

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USNATO BRUSSELS 015

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0110

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, CH, UR

SUBJECT: GERMAN CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS VISIT TO PRC

REF: PEKING 0089

1. FRG CHARGE ALFRED STEGER HAS GIVEN US FURTHER BRIEFING ON VISIT TO PRC OF CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ-JOSEF STRAUSS WHICH SUPPLEMENTS THE INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTEL. GERMAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS ACCOMPANIED STRAUSS ONLY ON MEETINGS WITH VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING AND VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE YAO TI-LIN, AND WERE NOT FULLY INFORMED ON MOST OF STRAUSS ACTIVITIES. STEGER
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SAID STRAUSS HAD ASKED FOR MEETINGS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND

WITH PEOPLE IN TRADE AND MILITARY FIELDS. EARLY IN THE VISIT HE HAD ASKED THAT HIS RESPECTS BE CONVEYED TO CHOU AND MAO, AND HE HAD HOPES OF SEEING CHOU. THE MAO MEETING, HOWEVER, CAME AS A MAJOR SURPRISE TO STRAUSS AND, WE SUSPECT, TO THE EMBASSY AS WELL.

2. WITH TENG, CONVERSATION PROCEEDED ALONG LINES REPORTED REFTEL. STEGER MADE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS STRAUSS WHO TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER SOVIET INTENTIONS IN THE BALKANS, AND THE CHINESE WERE RESPONDING TO HIS REMARKS. STRAUSS ALSO ADMONISHED CHINESE ON EQUATING THE SUPERPOWERS, POINTING OUT THAT THE ROLE OF THE U.S. IN EUROPE WAS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE SOVIET UNION. TENG AGREED, ADDING THAT CHINA WAS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE GROWING MILITARY STRENGTH OF THE SOVIETS, PARTICULARLY IN NAVAL CAPABILITIES AND MISSILES. TENG ALLEGED THAT THE USSR HAD ALREADY CAUGHT UP WITH THE U.S. AND MIGHT SOON SURPASS IT IN MILITARY STRENGTH. TENG ARGUED THAT ONE PROBLEM FOR THE U.S. WAS THE FACT THAT IT HAD UNDERTAKEN TOO MANY COMMITMENTS AFTER WORLD WAR II. U.S. IS NOW SPREAD TOO THIN, HE SAID, AND UNABLE TO MEET ALL OF ITS COMMITMENTS.

3. THE SUBJECT OF BREZHNEV CAME UP AND TENG TOOK THE LINE THAT PERSONALITIES MATTER LITTLE IN THE SOVIET UNION. TENG CONTENDED THAT THERE IS AN IMPERATIVE COMMON TO ALL RUSSIAN LEADERS GOING BACK TO TSARIST TIMES WHICH DETERMINES RUSSIAN POLICY AND A CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON POLICY.

4. TENG DWELT AT LENGTH ON THE IMPORTANCE OF A STRONG, UNITED EUROPE AND EMPHASIZED THE POINT WITH A STATEMENT UNUSUAL FOR ANY CHINESE LEADER. TENG STATED THAT EVEN IF THE USSR WERE TO CONQUER ALL OF CHINA IT WOULD STILL NOT RULE THE WORLD, BUT IF IT WERE TO CONQUER ALL OF EUROPE, WITH ALL OF ITS INTELLECTUAL, INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES, IT WOULD INDEED RULE THE WORLD.

5. STEGER ASKED THAT STRAUSS' COMMENTS NOT BE DISCUSSED OUTSIDE USG, INCLUDING THE GERMAN OFFICIALS, SINCE EMBASSY IS VERY SENSITIVE TO HIS POLITICAL STATUS IN GERMANY.
HOLDRIDGE

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